

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. **(original)** A method for assigning an internal port address to uniquely identify a port associated with a routing processor of a network device associated with, and having a location within, a system, comprising: allocating a location section of the internal port address corresponding to the location of the network device; allocating a routing processor section of the internal port address corresponding to a routing processor associated with the routing processor; and allocating a port section of the internal port address corresponding to the port.

2. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein allocating a location section further comprises allocating a shelf section of the internal port address corresponding to the location of the network device within a shelf.

3. **(original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the network device is associated with at least one geographical locator indicator; and the shelf section is derived from the geographical locator indicator.

4. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein allocating a location section further comprises allocating a slot section of the internal port address corresponding to the location of the network device within a slot.

5. **(original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the slot is located within a shelf.

6. **(original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the network device is associated with at least one geographical locator indicator; and the shelf section is derived from the geographical locator indicator.

7. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the routing processor is associated with a PCI slot ID; and the routing processor section is derived from the PCI slot ID.

8. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a line card.

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